

CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented system for use in collecting

data from a user, comprising:

a client computer ~~configurable~~ configured to connect to a network to obtain over the network form-related data from a server computer system;

wherein a form is displayed based upon the form-related data in a user interface that is generated by the client computer, wherein the form is to collect data from a user;

client-side computer instructions executable on the client computer that visually modifies the form in response to data collected from the user through the form;

wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to highlight a selection made by the user upon a data item contained within the form, wherein the client-side instructions are configured to highlight the selection in response to the user selecting the data item;

wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to provide a visual indication that a data item is complete after the user has provided information required by the data item;

wherein the client-side instructions are configured to provide a list of currently incomplete data items to the user;

wherein the list is updated as the user completes a data item contained on the form;

wherein a data item provided in the list is associated with a link, wherein the link provides access to the data item so that the user can view the data item associated with the link.

2. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the data item provides a list of options from which the user can select.

3. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 2, wherein the selection of an option provided in the list is highlighted by at least substantially boldfacing the selection.

4. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 2, wherein the selection of an option provided in the list is highlighted by colorizing the selection differently from the other options provided in the data item.

5. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the client-side computer instructions generate data indicative of the degree of completion for the data item, wherein the degree of completion is based upon user input with respect to the data item.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 5, wherein the client-side computer instructions generate a visual indicator for indicating the degree of completion for the data item.

7. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 6, wherein the visual indicator is a check mark indicator placed in the data item's header.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 7, wherein the visual indicator provides a differentiation between the completed data item and data items not completed by the user.
9. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 8, wherein deselection of the data item by the user removes the visual indicator from the data item's header.
10. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The system of claim 1, wherein the data item contains a multi-part question, wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to add a visual completion indicator to the data item after the user has provided all required input to the parts of the multi-part question.
11. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The system of claim 1, wherein the data item contains an option which has one or more dependent questions, wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to add a visual completion indicator to the form to indicate when the user has supplied a response to a dependent question.
12. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The system of claim 11, wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to provide a visual completion indicator to the option after the user has provided all required input to the option's dependent questions.
13. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 12, wherein deselection with respect to a dependent question removes a visual completion indicator from the dependent question.

14. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 13, wherein deselection with respect to a dependent question removes a visual completion indicator from the data item.
15. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 14, wherein the visual completion indicator is a check mark.
16. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the client-side computer instructions generate data indicative of the degree of completion for the form, wherein the degree of completion is based upon user input with respect to data items provided on the form.
17. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the degree of completion is expressed as a completion percentage.
18. **(CANCELLED)**
19. **(CANCELLED)**
20. **(CANCELLED)**
21. **(CANCELLED)**

22. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the client-side instructions prevent submission of the form while the form is incomplete.
23. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 22, wherein the form submit button is inactive until the form is completed.
24. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the server computer system handles a request for web page content received over the network from the client computer.
25. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of an intranet network, Internet network, local area network, wide area network, wireless network, network accessible via modems, and combinations thereof.
26. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the form is a web-based form.
27. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein the web-based form includes a plurality of data items, wherein each data item provides a list of options from which the user can select.
28. **(ORIGINAL)** The system of claim 1, wherein multiple screen displays are required to display the web-based through a web browser.

29. (**ORIGINAL**) The system of claim 1, wherein a next screen indicator is required to be activated in order to see a succeeding page of the web-based form.

30. (**ORIGINAL**) The system of claim 1, wherein the client-side computer instructions visually modify the form with respect to the data item substantially in real-time based upon user input to the data item.

31. (**ORIGINAL**) The system of claim 1, wherein the client-side computer instructions visually modify the form with respect to the data item in near-real time based upon user input to the data item.

32. (**ORIGINAL**) The system of claim 1, wherein the client-side computer instructions perform a validation operation based upon the user input to the data item, wherein the validation operation is performed before data acquired through the form is sent from the client computer to a server.

33. (**ORIGINAL**) The system of claim 32, wherein the server is the server which sent the form-related data to the client computer.

34. (**ORIGINAL**) The system of claim 32, wherein the server is a server which did not send the form-related data to the client computer.

35. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the data item is a radio button-based data item.

36. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the data item is a check box-based data item.

37. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the data item is a pull down-based data item.

38-52. (CANCELLED)

53. (NEW) A computer-implemented method for operation on a client computer and for use in collecting data from a user, wherein the client computer is configured to connect to a network to obtain over the network form-related data from a server computer system, said method comprising:

executing client-side instructions to display a form on the client computer based upon the form-related data in a user interface that is generated by the client computer, wherein the form is to collect data from a user;

executing the client-side computer instructions to visually modify the form in response to data collected from the user through the form;

executing the client-side computer instructions to highlight a selection made by the user upon a data item contained within the form, wherein the client-side instructions are configured to highlight the selection in response to the user selecting the data item;

executing the client-side computer instructions to provide a visual indication that a data item is complete after the user has provided information required by the data item;

executing the client-side instructions to provide a list of currently incomplete data items to the user;

wherein the list is updated as the user completes a data item contained on the form;

wherein a data item provided in the list is associated with a link, wherein the link provides access to the data item so that the user can view the data item associated with the link.

54. (NEW) Computer-readable storage medium or mediums encoded with client-side instructions that cause a client computer to perform a method for use in collecting data from a user, wherein the client computer is configured to connect to a network to obtain over the network form-related data from a server computer system, said method comprising:

executing client-side instructions to display a form on the client computer based upon the form-related data in a user interface that is generated by the client computer, wherein the form is to collect data from a user;

executing the client-side computer instructions to visually modify the form in response to data collected from the user through the form;

executing the client-side computer instructions to highlight a selection made by the user upon a data item contained within the form, wherein the client-side instructions are configured to highlight the selection in response to the user selecting the data item;

executing the client-side computer instructions to provide a visual indication that a data item is complete after the user has provided information required by the data item;

executing the client-side instructions to provide a list of currently incomplete data items to the user;

wherein the list is updated as the user completes a data item contained on the form;

wherein a data item provided in the list is associated with a link, wherein the link provides access to the data item so that the user can view the data item associated with the link.

55. (NEW) A computer-implemented system for use in collecting data from a user, comprising:

a client computer configured to connect to a network to obtain over the network form-related data from a server computer system;

wherein a form is displayed based upon the form-related data in a user interface that is generated by the client computer, wherein the form is to collect data from a user;

client-side computer instructions executable on the client computer that visually modifies the form in response to data collected from the user through the form;

wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to highlight a selection made by the user upon a data item contained within the form, wherein the client-side instructions are configured to highlight the selection in response to the user selecting the data item;

wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to provide a visual indication that a data item is complete after the user has provided information required by the data item;

wherein the client-side instructions are configured to provide a list of currently incomplete data items to the user;

wherein the list is updated as the user completes a data item contained on the form;

wherein the list is updated if the user removes a response to a data item contained on the form.

56. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the data item provides a list of options from which the user can select.

57. (NEW) The system of claim 56, wherein the selection of an option provided in the list is highlighted by at least substantially boldfacing the selection.

58. (NEW) The system of claim 56, wherein the selection of an option provided in the list is highlighted by colorizing the selection differently from the other options provided in the data item.

59. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the client-side computer instructions generate data indicative of the degree of completion for the data item, wherein the degree of completion is based upon user input with respect to the data item.

60. (NEW) The system of claim 59, wherein the client-side computer instructions generate a visual indicator for indicating the degree of completion for the data item.

61. (NEW) The system of claim 60, wherein the visual indicator is a check mark indicator placed in the data item's header.

62. (NEW) The system of claim 61, wherein the visual indicator provides a differentiation between the completed data item and data items not completed by the user.

63. (NEW) The system of claim 62, wherein deselection of the data item by the user removes the visual indicator from the data item's header.

64. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the data item contains a multi-part question, wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to add a visual completion indicator to the data item after the user has provided all required input to the parts of the multi-part question.

65. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the data item contains an option which has one or more dependent questions, wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to add a visual completion indicator to the form to indicate when the user has supplied a response to a dependent question.

66. (NEW) The system of claim 65, wherein the client-side computer instructions are configured to provide a visual completion indicator to the option after the user has provided all required input to the option's dependent questions.

67. (NEW) The system of claim 66, wherein deselection with respect to a dependent question removes a visual completion indicator from the dependent question.

68. (NEW) The system of claim 67, wherein deselection with respect to a dependent question removes a visual completion indicator from the data item.

69. (NEW) The system of claim 68, wherein the visual completion indicator is a check mark.

70. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the client-side computer instructions generate data indicative of the degree of completion for the form, wherein the degree of completion is based upon user input with respect to data items provided on the form.

71. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the degree of completion is expressed as a completion percentage.

72. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the client-side instructions prevent submission of the form while the form is incomplete.

73. (NEW) The system of claim 72, wherein the form submit button is inactive until the form is completed.

74. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the server computer system handles a request for web page content received over the network from the client computer.

75. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of an intranet network, Internet network, local area network, wide area network, wireless network, network accessible via modems, and combinations thereof.

76. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the form is a web-based form.

77. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the web-based form includes a plurality of data items, wherein each data item provides a list of options from which the user can select.

78. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein multiple screen displays are required to display the web-based through a web browser.

79. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein a next screen indicator is required to be activated in order to see a succeeding page of the web-based form.

80. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the client-side computer instructions visually modify the form with respect to the data item substantially in real-time based upon user input to the data item.

81. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the client-side computer instructions visually modify the form with respect to the data item in near-real time based upon user input to the data item.

82. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the client-side computer instructions perform a validation operation based upon the user input to the data item, wherein the

validation operation is performed before data acquired through the form is sent from the client computer to a server.

83. (NEW) The system of claim 82, wherein the server is the server which sent the form-related data to the client computer.

84. (NEW) The system of claim 82, wherein the server is a server which did not send the form-related data to the client computer.

85. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the data item is a radio button-based data item.

86. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the data item is a check box-based data item.

87. (NEW) The system of claim 55, wherein the data item is a pull down-based data item.

88. (NEW) A computer-implemented method for operation on a client computer and for use in collecting data from a user, wherein the client computer is configured to connect to a network to obtain over the network form-related data from a server computer system, said method comprising:

executing client-side instructions to display a form on the client computer based upon the form-related data in a user interface that is generated by the client computer, wherein the form is to collect data from a user;

executing the client-side computer instructions to visually modify the form in response to data collected from the user through the form;

executing the client-side computer instructions to highlight a selection made by the user upon a data item contained within the form, wherein the client-side instructions are configured to highlight the selection in response to the user selecting the data item;

executing the client-side computer instructions to provide a visual indication that a data item is complete after the user has provided information required by the data item;

executing the client-side instructions to provide a list of currently incomplete data items to the user;

wherein the list is updated as the user completes a data item contained on the form;

wherein the list is updated if the user removes a response to a data item contained on the form.

89. (NEW) Computer-readable storage medium or mediums encoded with client-side instructions that cause a client computer to perform a method for use in collecting data from a user, wherein the client computer is configured to connect to a network to obtain

over the network form-related data from a server computer system, said method comprising:

executing client-side instructions to display a form on the client computer based upon the form-related data in a user interface that is generated by the client computer, wherein the form is to collect data from a user;

executing the client-side computer instructions to visually modify the form in response to data collected from the user through the form;

executing the client-side computer instructions to highlight a selection made by the user upon a data item contained within the form, wherein the client-side instructions are configured to highlight the selection in response to the user selecting the data item;

executing the client-side computer instructions to provide a visual indication that a data item is complete after the user has provided information required by the data item;

executing the client-side instructions to provide a list of currently incomplete data items to the user;

wherein the list is updated as the user completes a data item contained on the form;

wherein the list is updated if the user removes a response to a data item contained on the form.